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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE following is the list of subscriptions sent to the editor of *Science* for a memorial tablet inscribed with the name of JOACHIM BARRANDE, to be placed on the side of a cliff at Kuchelbad, near Prague, Bohemia: Professor Alpheus Hyatt, Boston, \$10; Dr. Carl Rominger, Ann Arbor, \$10; John Collett, state geologist, Indianapolis, \$2; Professor Jules Marcou, Cambridge, \$4; S. H. Scudder, Cambridge, \$10; and the following from gentlemen connected with the U. S. geological survey: Major J. W. Powell, \$5; C. D. Walcott, \$5; Dr. C. A. White, \$5; Dr. A. C. Peale, \$1; G. K. Gilbert, \$3; Capt. C. E. Dutton, \$1; Prof. T. C. Chamberlin, \$3; W. J. McGee, \$2; J. B. Marcou, \$2; Prof. H. S. Williams, \$5; Prof. S. G. Williams, \$2; S. F. Emmons, \$2; total, \$72. A draft for 175.60 Austrian florins was forwarded, on Monday last, to Dr. Anton Fritsch of the Prag museum.

—The first number of the *Bulletin of Massachusetts natural history* has appeared. The contents, unfortunately, show no justification for its existence, either for the interests of the natural history of Massachusetts, or as a record of work in the State agricultural college, which its circular declared to be its two special objects.

—The *Kölnische zeitung* of April 10 states that Dr. Koch, the head of the German scientific commission for the investigation of the cholera, has submitted a seventh report, dated Calcutta, March 4. It mentions the important discovery that the storage-basins called tanks have proved the locally limited seat of cholera infection and communication. Little ponds or swamps, scattered over all Bengal in large numbers, surrounded by cottages, furnish to the dwellers near them their water-supply, and are used for various purposes, — as for bathing, clothes-washing, for cleaning domestic utensils, and also for drinking-water. After the commission had in vain sought for the cholera bacillus in numerous trials of tank, sewage, and river water, they are discovered for the first time in a tank in the midst of the cholera district. Since the last report, the bodies of twenty cholera victims, and the excrements of eleven patients, have been examined. The whole number of cases examined in India now amounts to forty-two dead bodies and twenty-eight patients. The last cases have not, to be sure, yielded new results. They resemble the others in every particular, especially in reference to the behavior of the bacilli. In addition, there are still in progress investigations concerning the influence of various substances — as sublimate, carbolic acid, and other disinfectants — on the development of the cholera bacilli in culture-fluids; also concerning their behavior in carbonic acid, and deprived of air. Attempts to discover a lasting form of the bacillus were also continually made. Up to the present time, nothing of the kind has been discovered. The only possibility of getting bacilli capable of living a longer time is to keep them from drying. In liquids they remain for weeks capable of

development, and every thing seems to indicate that only in a moist condition can they be preserved, and then made to act on human bodies. Unfortunately, on account of the warm weather, which this year begins early, further investigations on this subject must be abandoned. Dr. Koch is returning to Europe.

—The first general meeting of the British association at Montreal will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 8 P.M. precisely, when Professor Cayley will resign the chair, and Professor the Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, president-elect, will assume the presidency, and deliver an address. On Thursday evening, Aug. 28, at 8 P.M., there will be given a *soirée*; on Friday evening, Aug. 29, at 8.30 P.M., a discourse, by Prof. W. G. Adams; on Monday evening, Sept. 1, at 8.30 P.M., a discourse on 'The modern microscope in researches on the least and lowest forms of life,' by the Rev. W. H. Dallinger; on Tuesday evening, Sept. 2, at 8 P.M., a *soirée*; on Wednesday, Sept. 3, the concluding general meeting will be held at 2.30 P.M.; Saturday evening, Aug. 30, a lecture on 'Comets,' by Prof. R. S. Ball, of Dublin university, and astronomer royal for Ireland (this does not appear in the association circular, as it is intended for the citizens of Montreal).

—An informal meeting was held April 12, in Philadelphia, to discuss the plans of the proposed department of biology at the University of Pennsylvania. A fund of a hundred thousand dollars is to be raised to allow of an expenditure of fifteen thousand dollars for a building, the balance to be invested for the support of the institution. Twenty thousand dollars have already been subscribed, and the contracts for the building will soon be given out. A committee consisting of Hon. John Welsh, Dr. Leidy, Dr. Alice Bennett, Mrs. S. A. Crozer, Dr. Horace F. Jayne, Miss Ida Wood, and Miss Mary Thorn Lewis, was appointed to carry out the purposes of the meeting.

—At the meeting of the French academy on March 31, Mr. Charles Brongniart announced the discovery, in the rich carboniferous deposits of Commeny, of new gigantic forms of insects, of the type of *Dictyonera*, in which the expanse of wings was nearly twenty-eight inches.

—Among recent deaths, we note that of Abbé Brugnone, the paleontologist, at Palermo, on the 3d of February, in his seventieth year; that of Dr. E. Behm, editor-in-chief of Petermann's *Geographische Mittheilungen*, already noticed, occurred at Gotha, on the 15th of March; Capt. Niels Hoffmeyer, the director of the meteorological institute at Copenhagen, died at that place, the 16th of February.

—It is proposed to collect as complete a set of books on electricity as possible, to be shown at the International electrical exhibition in Philadelphia this autumn. After the exhibition the collection will be placed in charge of the Franklin institute, and will form the nucleus of a reference-library.

—E. and F. N. Spon announce as in preparation 'The electric light,' by E. Alglave and J. Boulard, translated from the French by T. O'Connor Sloane.